



State Senator
RON JELINEK
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STATE SENATOR
RON JELINEK

HUNTING SAFETY

As the old saying goes, safety is no accident. Before you head outdoors, remember to hunt with safety in mind and follow these basic gun safety rules:

- **Always have complete control of your weapon.**
- **Always treat your firearm as if it were loaded.**
- **Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.**
- **Before firing, know your target and what is beyond.**
- **Be sure the gun is safe to operate and use only the correct ammunition.**
- **Always unload your weapon before putting it in your vehicle or camp.**
- **And, NEVER mix hunting and alcohol.**

According to the DNR, the 2005 hunting season was among the safest ever, although the state recorded three fatalities. Many of the nonfatal accidents were caused by careless handling of a firearm, so they were entirely preventable.

Let's set a new safety record this year – handle all firearms safely and responsibly.

RESOURCE GUIDE

Find rules and regulations, access the fall hunting guides, get your license online and more at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

DNR TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Wildlife Division517-373-1263
Fisheries517-373-1280
Parks & Recreation517-373-9900
Forest Management517-373-1275
Law Enforcement.....517-373-1230
Report All Poaching1-800-292-7800

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Chronic Wasting Disease,
Bovine Tuberculosis.....517-336-5030
(DNR Wildlife Disease Lab)
www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases

West Nile Virus Hotline888-668-0869
www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus

Emerald Ash Borer Hotline866-325-0023
www.emeraldashborer.info

TOLL-FREE:
(866) 305.2121

E-MAIL:
senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov

HUNTING UPDATE

FROM STATE SENATOR

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Dear Friend:

As the leaves start to turn, I wanted to send along some hunting information for you. Along with updates on new legislation, this newsletter provides safety tips, helpful resources, a look at two key ballot proposals and more. I hope you find it informative.

It is my honor to represent you in the Michigan Senate and I will continue to work hard to protect your hunting and sporting rights. As always, your comments and suggestions on ways to preserve Michigan's hunting heritage are most welcome.

I hope you and your family enjoy Michigan's fall splendor. Best wishes for a safe and successful hunting season!

Sincerely,

Ron Jelinek
State Senator
21st District

HUNTERS: TAKE AIM AND VOTE

This fall there will be two proposals of special interest to hunters on the November ballot.

One proposal would provide constitutional protection for the DNR funds that direct sportsmen's user fees into recreational programs.

The other measure seeks to ban dove hunting in the state. Michigan had its inaugural dove hunt season in 2004. The 2005 and 2006 seasons were suspended when the State Board of Canvassers approved the petition signatures to put a referendum on dove hunting before the voters on the November 2006 ballot.

HUNTING LICENSE - MILITARY DISCOUNT

Michigan residents who are active military personnel and stationed out of state but home on leave are eligible for a special military license discount. These individuals can buy a hunting license, that doesn't require a separate application, for \$1.

The license is valid for up to two weeks during the hunting season. Applicants must bring proof of military status and leave papers to any license vendor or to any DNR Operations Service Center. Locate a license vendor by county and access full licensing information at the DNR website www.michigan.gov/dnr.

SENATOR JELINEK SUPPORTS APPRENTICE HUNTING LICENSE

You may have noticed fewer people hunting when you're out in the field or woods. According to the DNR, there has been a decrease in hunter turnout in recent years. But more people could be introduced to the sport under Senate legislation recently passed into law. Public Act 282 of 2006 creates a new apprentice hunting license to allow more people to experience the sport while under the supervision of a fully licensed, experienced hunter.

Under the new law, a person could apply for the special license starting at the legal hunting age. The hunter does not need a hunter's safety course with the apprentice hunting license, but must be accompanied by a licensed adult. They could hunt for two years, but, after that, they would need to apply for a standard license and pass a hunting safety course.

“An apprentice hunting license is one way we can encourage more participation to keep our outdoor heritage alive.”

Senator Ron Jelinek

SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

Starting this year under a new law, hunters and anglers can donate \$1 to the Sportsmen Against Hunger program when applying for a license. The donation is in addition to the license fee. Beginning January 1, 2007, the DNR will use the funds to help cover the cost of gathering, processing and distributing wild game to people in need.

“Michigan hunters can directly help families in their communities by sharing nature's bounty.”

Senator Ron Jelinek

Since 1991, the volunteer organization, Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger, has been providing donated venison and other game meat to groups like local food banks, soup kitchens and Salvation Army community centers. During the 2003 hunting season, over 50,000 pounds of venison were distributed to charitable organizations. The new state program could offset processing costs and help more hungry families.

SENATOR JELINEK VOTES TO EXPAND YOUTH HUNTING

For many families, there's nothing better than spending time together outdoors. I supported legislation recently passed into law to provide new opportunities for families to share time together hunting. Public Act 280 of 2006 lowers the legal age from 14 to 12 to hunt deer, elk and bear with firearms, and the legal age from 12 to 10 to hunt small game such as birds and squirrels. The young hunter must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who determines if their child is ready to hunt safely and responsibly at that age.

Close parental supervision and involvement helps ensure a fun and safe introduction to the sport. Parents are also able to teach stewardship of Michigan's land and natural resources to their children at an early age.

POSTED PURPLE

Legislation recently passed by the Senate would allow landowners to use purple paint marks on trees or posts to indicate no trespassing is allowed on the property. Under Senate Bill 499, the paint marks would function just like a "No Trespassing" sign. The paint would have to be readily visible to a person approaching the property. In addition, each paint mark would have to be a vertical line at least eight inches long, and the bottom of the mark would have to be between three and five feet above the ground. The marks also could not be more than 100 feet apart.

Several other states have adopted this concept, in part to address stolen or destroyed "No Trespassing" signs, as well as the expense of fencing. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.